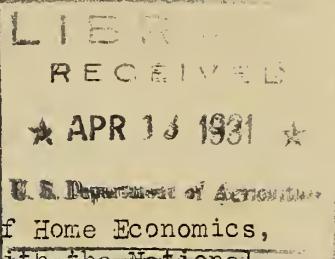


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THE HOUSEHOLD CALENDAR.

A radio talk by Mrs. Rowena Schmidt Carpenter, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through WRC and 40 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, April 2, 1931.

How do you do, Homemakers!

Last week we concentrated on kitchens, you and Mrs. Brossard and I. That was a sort of scheme of mine to get you interested in rejuvenating your kitchen for spring before you got too involved in retoggling yourself or became too busy with outside work. If you missed Mrs. Brossard's suggestions on kitchen arrangements, be sure to send for our free pamphlet "Convenient Kitchens," Farmers' Bulletin fifteen thirteen.

Today, I can't resist talking to you about housecleaning. It seems another such timely subject, even though I know that spring housecleaning as once was is no longer in good repute. Do you remember, or have you ever experienced, a session of terrific upheaval all squeezed into a few days or a week's time, when everything in every room and every closet had to be moved, taken down or out, sorted, discarded, dusted, scrubbed, cleaned, or painted? Luckily, that sort of turmoil is all out of date, and to indulge in such methods is really a reflection on one's year around efficiency.

Someone said recently that the only way to accomplish spring housecleaning efficiently is to avoid it! That statement may seem not to make much sense on first thought, but there's a good idea in it, the idea of keeping clean rather than making clean. Of course it isn't possible to eliminate seasonal cleaning entirely, but it can be reduced to a minimum by well organized daily and weekly and monthly work. Weekly cleaning is certainly lessened by putting things in order daily, and removing dust and dirt from at least some parts of the house every day.

And the modern housekeeper distributes her seasonal cleaning in much the same way. Storage pantries, clothes closets, the attic and basement, that need "ridding up" only periodically, can each be tackled in turn by the homemaker who maps out her jobs on paper, with a calendar by her side. If, for instance, you put up your own preserves, jellies, pickles, and canned things, as some of you do I know, your spring schedule reminds you that it is now time to go over the contents of the pantry where these things are stored to see what you have left and so plan your new canning and preserving schedule. You scrub the shelves, group the remaining jars, and make room for those soon to be filled. All of us will soon be washing woolen blankets, and having heavy comforters cleaned for summer storage. We will be getting winter furs and fur trimmed garments cleaned or at least burlsed, aired and sunned, while we clean out the closet or space in the attic where we will store these winter things under moth proof conditions. And if new paint is needed on woodwork or walls, if repapering must be done, or furniture refinished, we naturally

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choose the spring season for making our houses fresh and new looking inside, to be in keeping with the bright newness of the out of doors. So we do have some seasonal jobs but they are fewer and get done with less disturbance of normal home life when we apply preventive methods in our housekeeping, methods of preventing seasonal upheaval.

These housekeeping jobs which some writers describe as "housewifery" can be much simplified by a few inexpensive arrangements. If the windows or doors of your pantries or storeroom are near the ground, or if you live in an especially windy climate, you will find it helpful to put cheese cloth over the screens, which keeps out much dirt, though it lets in the air. Door mats and scrapers, a place near entrances for muddy rubbers and boots, and for the children and men folks to leave outside garments that are especially dusty or soiled, reduce the inside cleaning. Well arranged cleaning closets in several parts of the house with a broom and dust-pan in each will not only save steps for you but will encourage others in your family to sweep out any dirt they have brought in or to help in other ways to keep order.

Having a suitable cleansing material on hand for each kind of cleaning and emergency often saves time and keeps household things in first class condition with the least wear and tear on them. I am thinking of stain removers to take out spots before they "set," turpentine to remove splashed paint before it dries, absorbent powders to prevent freshly spilled liquids from soaking into fabrics. Suggestions for equipping a cleaning closet, for preventing difficult seasonal cleaning by a systematic keeping clean routine and many special directions for many special kinds of cleaning such as polishing brass, silver and nickel are found in Farmers' Bulletin eleven eighty, "Housecleaning Made Easier," which we will be glad to send you. And now goodbye, Homemakers, until next week.
